CIRCULAR LETTER.

Dear Sir,

The object which induces me to pen the following observations, is, that those Electors of this Division, who may now be, or who might hereafter become my friends, personally, or politically, or both, may possess some acquaintance with the antecedents of the individual who aspires to their confidence and favor.

I could not, without incurring the charge of egotism, embody the subject of this letter in a formal Public address, which will shortly appear—I therefore adopt this method of making myself more generally known to the Electors of the Western Division; because, having heretofore pursued "the even tenor of my way" through life, without ostentation, and devoid of that notoriety which a participation in Railroad jobs, land speculations, or violent partizan struggles would have acquired for me, I conceive that the Electors are entitled to know upon what pretensions I presume to ask their suffrages.

That I have been no drone in the human family, but on the contrary, an energetic enterprising, and useful labourer among my fellow men, substantial and enduring evidences in this neighborhood abundantly testify.

I left my native land "of Mountain and of Flood," and arrived in Upper Canada in 1834 with my venerable father, (now in his 86th year,) a still existing fragment of that glorious band, who fought for freedom and his country, against a united world, and who wears upon his breast the emblems of a nations gratitude—"Peninsula" and "Waterloo." The now populous and flourishing County of Grey, then, an uninhabited, and almost inaccessible wilderness, became my home, and I served my apprenticeship in the Township of St. Vincent as a 'bushwhacker,' suffering for nearly four years, privations and hardships unknown in these later times.

The Rebellion of 1837-8 brought me to Chatham, as a subordinate officer in the British Commissariat, and in that capacity I am still remembered with favor by old residents, as the humble instrument of aid to many a poor man. This temporary appointment ceased in 1843, when I became doubly allied to one of the oldest and most respectable families of this County, by marriage and by a mercantile union; the firm of Eberts, Waddell & Co, is still remembered with good will, by all within the sphere of its operations.

The efforts which were made in 1846-7 to reform the abuses then existing in our political and administrative system, engaged my earnest sympathies, and no one fought more manfully, or more perseveringly than I did under the able leadership of the late lamented Statesman, Rob't Baldwin, till Church grants and reservations of land were secularized, till Municipal Institutions gave to every community power to manage its own local affairs, and till many other GENUINE reforms were consummated. That my services were appreciated let the following extract from a letter addressed to me by the late Hon. Robert Baldwin, testify in my behalf.

Montreal, 29th August 1848.

To JOHN WADDELL, ESQ'R.
Chatham.

DEAR SIR,—The political relation in which I stand to you, and your family, as old and staunch friends of the same great constitutional cause, will, without a more intimate personal acquaintance, sufficiently justify my proceeding without preface or explanation to the enquiry which is the object of my present note, &c. &c.,

(Signed,) yours truly,
ROBERT BALDWIN.

—The note from which the foregoing is taken proceeds to speak of my appointment as Sheriff of the Western District in the place of Mr. Foott, resigned.

In 1847, when Parliamentary Returning Officers were appointed at the dictum of the Executive, I, a Merchant, was chosen by the then Government, to perform that highly onerous and important duty at the time the "two Camerons" contested the Election, for the representation of Kent and Lambton.—Early in 1849, I became Sheriff of the Western District, and subsequently of the United Counties of Essex, Kent, and Lambton. In January 1851, Essex became independent, and I was re-commissioned Sheriff of the Counties of Kent and Lambton, and finally in the same year, was again re-commissioned as Sheriff of the County of Kent, which latter appointment I resigned in favor of the present incumbent in 1854. On surrendering, first, my jurisdiction in the County of Essex, I received through the Clerk of the Peace of that County, a flattering eulogium upon my conduct from the Chairman and Justices of the County in Sessions assembled;

and second, when I retired from the County of Lambton, a similar eulogy was subscribed and forwarded to me by the leading inhabitants of that County.

While, Sheriff, I was a second time Returning Officer at the Election wherein Mr. Brown, Mr. Larwill, and Mr. Rankin, were Candidates, and received upon that occasion from Mr. Brown, a written expression of his thanks and esteem, for the impartial and creditable manner in which the proceedings had been conducted. In the year 1851, I was offered by the then authorities, a commission in the Militia as Lt. Colonel, which I declined to accept, upon the grounds that I could not conscientiously take that rank, while there were others in my vicinity, more entitled than myself, and I finally accepted a commission as Captain, which I now hold.

The Honorary dignity of Associate Justice of the Queen's Bench, was held by me for several years, and I have long been, and am now a Justice of the Peace for this County.

On resigning the Shrievalty as before stated, I engaged extensively in Shipping—steam and sail—in lumbering, and in produce. The craft I constructed upon the River Thames, have given fame and character to this County, for their excellence of workmanship and material—but when the crash of 1857, burst upon the Mercantile world, I, and many better men, were compelled to bow to the decree of fate, which crippled our resources and suspended our enterprise for the time.

The foregoing short sketch of my somewhat checkered career will serve to shew, that I have not been an idle spectator while others were at work, and I can claim participation in almost all the works of public benefit or private charity, within my own sphere of action, as a liberal contributor.—Before the Jury Laws were amended, I held despotic power as Sheriff in summoning Juries, but I exercised that power humanely, and judiciously, and this may meet the eye of many who can bear testimony, that the distressed or poverty stricken man never appealed to me for exemption in vain. I make no pretensions to perfection, I err like every man, but I believe I can face this constituency with comparatively clean hands; If I have offended any, let them bear no malice, to err is human, to forgive divine. If I have served any, let them go and do likewise.

My political opinions and principles are moderate, as were those of the great father of Real Reform and progress in Canada, the late Mr. Baldwin; and although I would go as far as any man in aiding to accomplish a necessary reform, I am not inclined to adopt submissively the impracticable nostrums of those demagogues who aim to acquire place and power by deluding the public with a meaningless cry.

Interested persons desiring to injure my character with one class or other, denounce me as a Ministerialist, or Clear Grit, as may suit their object or design. I am neither the nominee of the Ministry, nor the nominee of the "Globe" Newspaper, and am prepared to enter the field against either of such characters, both of which, if report is to be relied on, I shall have to combat, and it will rest with the Electors to say, whether they will support me, the independent advocate of true liberality and progress, free from party fetters, or support the man, being either the tool of the Executive, or the slave of an opposing faction.

My address, hereafter to be issued, will set forth my political views and opinions on current events and subjects, fully, and I refer you to it. I cannot possibly think of every Elector to whom I would wish to address a copy of this Circular Letter—and, if, unintentionally, I should forget a friend, I hope it will be attributed by him to the real cause, accident, and not design.

I am, Dear Sir,

Yours truly,

JOHN WADDELL.

CHATHAM, Kent, 1859.

Wm. H. Thompson, Printer, Chatham.

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Malcolm Weir Esq
Chatham

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